



STEEPLE NEWS

Centennial United Methodist Church at Ivy

FEBRUARY 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOYCE

Greetings Centennial Church Family,

As we journey through the heart of winter, we are often reminded of the beauty and challenge of this season. The days are shorter, and the cold can sometimes weigh heavily on our spirits. Yet, within this time of quiet and stillness, there lies a profound opportunity for reflection, growth, and renewal.

Just as the earth rests and prepares for the blooming of spring, we too can use this season to draw closer to God and to one another.

The month of February also brings with it a reminder of love. Valentine's Day prompts us to reflect on the many forms of love that bless our lives - the love of family, friends, and most importantly, the boundless love of our Creator. In 1 John 4:19, we read, "We love because He first loved us." This divine love is the foundation of all our relationships and the source of our strength in challenging times.

As we move through this season, let's remember to be the light for those around us. A kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or a helping hand can make a world of difference to someone who may be feeling the weight of winter. Let us embody the love of Christ in all we do, shining brightly even in the coldest of days.

May this winter be a time of deepening faith, renewed hope, and growing love for each of us.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Joyce

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

As the Body of Christ in the world, we are called to reach out with the love of Jesus. Here are some ways you can be the hands and feet of Jesus through the Centennial UMC.

Donating Soup for the Caring Hands Food Pantry



The church is collecting canned soup to donate to the local food pantry through Sunday, February 9th. There's nothing like a nice, hot bowl of soup to warm you up when it's cold outside. We have set a goal to beat the 246 cans of soup we collected last year. When you shop for your groceries, be sure and pick up a couple of extra cans of soup to share with our neighbors.

Contributing to Disaster Relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)



Photo: Rev. Garth Gilliam, California-Pacific Conference

**Support relief and recovery efforts
by donating to UMCOR.**

The state of California has been devastated by wild fires, which have destroyed people's homes and businesses. In some cases, families are dealing with the loss of a loved one who was killed in the fires. UMCOR is an agency of the United Methodist Church that responds to disasters.

If you would like to provide monetary assistance for disaster relief, there are some envelopes on the sign-up table. You can put your gift in the offering plate and the church will forward it on. The great thing about UMCOR is that 100% of your gift goes toward disaster relief. We will collect donations through Sunday, February 16th.



La Case de Esperanza (House of Hope)

This is a mission that provides residential housing to school girls in the jungles of Peru. It is run by an Iowa woman named Donna Gustafson, who is the sister-in-law of Sherry and David Burrier, members at Ivy Centennial.

Donna is doing amazing work with the indigenous people, many of whom live in remote villages. She not only provides housing so the girls can get an education, she also distributes Bibles written in the native language of the people, and she resources and trains local pastors. God is moving and Donna has seen the number of girls she serves triple in a very short period of time.

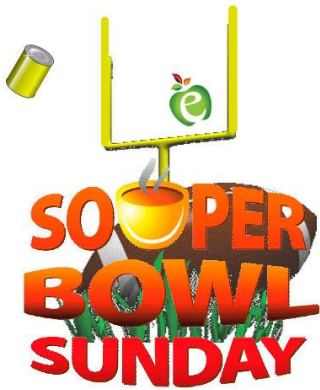
The needs are growing, and Donna is dependent on individuals and churches to help in her efforts to share the Gospel. If you want to know more about what Donna is doing, check out her web page - <https://www.launchinternational.net/donna-gustafson>



Baptisms in the river



Study Group



In conjunction with our soup collection drive, we will also have some fun by celebrating our own Souper Bowl on February 9th. We have a few things planned during the service and then afterward we will enjoy a soup lunch for our Dinner Day.

You are invited to wear your favorite team jersey and bring your favorite tailgate food to share. By the way...this would be a great Sunday to invite a friend or family member to church!



DINNER DAY DATE CHANGE FOR FEBRUARY & SIGN-UPS

Dinner Day in February will be on February 9th, to correspond with our Souper Bowl Sunday. The main course will be a variety of delicious soups.

There are still several openings for Dinner Day hosts in 2025. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the sanctuary. It's easy – grab a few family members or friends and sign-up to host. If you have questions, please touch base with Mary Ferguson (515) 975-0586



Sundays 9:15 am
Wednesdays 5:30 pm
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Sunday Dinner Day
 Saturday

The Chosen Small Group
From Beginning to Forever.
 2/5 6:45 pm
 2/6 1:00 pm
 2/9 11:30 am
 2/22 9:00 am

Meets in Fellowship Hall
 Meets in Fellowship Hall
 Ad Council & Council on Ministries
 Ivy Women's Fellowship Meets
 Souper Bowl Sunday and
 Men's Group Meets



***From Beginning to Forever* Wednesdays 5:30 -6:30 pm**

The Wednesday group recently started an 8-week study called *From Beginning to Forever*.

The study will guide us through the story of the Bible, showing how all 66 books combine to form one unified narrative.

During the 8 weeks, we will:

- Discover the deeper meaning and themes that run through Scripture.
- Recognize that you are being formed by the stories you believe and shaped by God's story.
- Come away with a greater understanding of who God is in every part of the Bible.
- Cultivate a new framework/lens/perspective for future Bible study.

The study also has a video component with a study book to guide the conversation.

Please let Pastor Joyce know if you will be participating so she can order a study book for you.

***The Chosen* Sundays 9:15-10:15 am**

During the Sunday school time we are doing a small group conversation around *The Chosen* video series, which is based on the life of Jesus. We watch an episode and then take some time for group discussion. If one of your goals for the new year is to take part in a small group, this would be a great place to plug in. Join us for coffee, donuts and conversation. Let Pastor Joyce know if you have any questions (515) 480-8457 or revjlwebb76@gmail.com



In December and January, the church lost two long-time church members – Doris Heaberlin and Moe Gilkison. We want to thank the women (and some men too) of Ivy Centennial who helped to provide and/or serve the food for the funeral lunches. Your kindness did not go unnoticed by the families. It's clear that Ivy Centennial is a church that loves and cares for one another, especially in life's most difficult moments.



If you would like to be added to our prayer list, please let Pastor Joyce know by calling or texting (515) 480-8457 or you can email her at revjlwebb76@gmail.com

Please hold these members and friends of the Ivy Centennial church family in prayer:

Family of Moe Gilkison
Judy Fiene
Barb Bolt
Karla Heaberlin
Barb Sharp

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1.
2. Aidan Craven Wendy Musgrave	3.	4.	5. Bev McGriff	6. Dave Warner	7. Bob Dice Anne Owens	8. Marissa Haley Larry McCrory
9. Rev. Bob Cook	10. Nathan Griffel John & Verna Bowie	11. Tim Fritz Missy & Steve Shaver	12. Aleka Fischer Raleigh Hiatt Afton Maxwell Matthew Myers	13.	14. Owen Fischer	15. Mary Lu Mauritz
16. Amy Ferguson Amos & Jacquelyn Purcell	17. Jason Hermann	18. David Burrier	19. Harry & Sandra Clark	20. Butch & Diane Griffel	21.	22.
23.	24. Terry Britt	25. Helen Freeman Grant Warner	26.	27.	28. Cody Tingley Kevin & Lisa Day	

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
COMPARISON OF OPERATING INCOME**

	Offerings 2024	Offerings 2023	Offerings 2022	Offerings 2021
January	\$9,670.48	\$17,243.17	\$11,240.28	\$11,270.04
February	\$9,829.06	\$7,101.46	\$9,698.09	\$8,480.01
March	\$10,748.26	\$5,903.26	\$9,669.39	\$12,192.01
April	\$6,768.06	\$10,174.26	\$14,356.63	\$12,506.01
May	\$5,321.26	\$6,837.26	\$9,004.49	\$8,717.05
June	\$9,196.26	\$7,021.56	\$7,083.14	\$8,118.89
July	\$7,083.86	\$9,413.26	\$8,636.81	\$6,295.75
August	\$6,342.26	\$5,192.26	\$7,081.26	\$7,919.24
September	\$7,991.31	\$7,791.06	\$5,610.25	\$9,763.24
October	\$4,765.26	\$9,101.26	\$12,111.46	\$12,038.34
November	\$10,238.00	\$8,401.26	\$8,679.97	\$10,568.68
December	\$7,479.63	\$11,510.84	\$7,552.26	\$10,477.42
Total Offerings	\$95,433.70	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$118,346.68
Government Paycheck Protection Program				\$20,177.00
Iowa Conference Assistance Program				\$4,300.98
Total Offerings & Programs	\$95,433.70	\$105,690.91	\$110,724.03	\$142,824.66

2024 Average Monthly Offerings \$7,952.81

2024 Average Required Monthly for Budget \$8,945.33

2024 Average Offerings vs. Average Required for Budget (\$992.52)

This comparison does not include memorial, building fund, or special project donations. As of December 31st, we collected \$2,417.59 for the Caring Hands Food Pantry.

Joy Warner, Financial Secretary

Pastor: Joyce Webb revjlwebb76@gmail.com

(515) 480-8457

Email Prayers Requests: Missy Shaver Mishaver2@gmail.com

515-967-6288

Secretary (Newsletters & Bulletins): Amy Ferguson anbscorbin@gmail.com

515-402-6056

Financial Secretary (Estimates of Giving): Joy Warner voj8893@gmail.com

